

Mansfield Public Schools

Board of Education Update

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Superintendent of Schools

Issue #64

October 2013

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	27	5/0	26	2/0	30	2/1			83
K	35	4/0	37	3/0	41	2/0			113
1	42	0/1	47	1/0	46	7/2			135
2	33	5/0	53	9/1	43	0/5			129
3	39	0/5	44	4/0	49	1/1			132
4	28	1/0	37	5/1	49	1/3			114
PK-4									706
5							128	11/2	128
6							135	5/0	135
7							140	2/0	140
8							142	2/0	142
# Boys	110		118		127		279		
# Girls	94		126		131		266		
Total	204	15/6	244	24/2	258	13/12	546	20/2	1252

*Enrolled/Withdrawn

Homeschool: 9 students from 5 families

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	5	1	5	16
ELL**	17	13	5	14	49

*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.
**English Language Learners

District Performance Targets (12-13)

Indicator	Participation Rate (11-12)	DPI (11-12)	Baseline DPI (3 yr. Avg.)	DPI Perf. Target (12-13)
DPI*	100.0%	88.9	88.1	Maintain
Students w/ Disabilities	100.0%	60.8	59.4	61.7
Free/Reduced Eligible	100.0%	76.7	76.4	77.4
Hispanic	100.0%	79.7	80.5	81.1
ELL	100.0%	64.1	64.1	66.1
Reading	99.6%	87.6	86.6	86.7
Mathematics	100.0%	90.7	90.3	Maintain
Writing	99.6%	89.3	88.3	Maintain
Science	100.0%	88.5	90.5	Maintain

* District Performance Index

Connecticut Mastery Test Results

/ % of students at/above goal – March 2013

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 115	95 / 83.3	89 / 77.4	88 / 76.5	n/a
4 – 124	102 / 82.3	90 / 72.6	92 / 75.4	n/a
5 – 137	124 / 91.9	116 / 85.3	108 / 80.6	119 / 86.9
6 – 141	108 / 76.6	107 / 76.4	112 / 80.0	n/a
7 – 135	117 / 86.7	120 / 88.9	122 / 90.4	n/a
8 – 141	105 / 75.0	122 / 87.1	118 / 84.3	117 / 83.0

Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2013-2014 grade)

Gr. 4 – 39/34%	Gr. 7 – 57/40%
Gr. 5 – 49/39%	Gr. 8 – 26/19%
Gr. 6 – 43/31%	Gr. 9 – 44/31%

Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

August-October 2012		August-October 2013	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
19,511	32,126	19,723	34,210

- Began 2014-2015 budget preparation.
- Attended Capital Project Update Meeting.

Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	2
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Facilitated signing of MEA contract.
- Facilitated required Sexual Harassment Training for appropriate staff.

District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Facilitated continued implementation of District CCSS Plan Year 2.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated Technology Committee meeting.
- Facilitated school building level meetings to discuss curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Policies

- Implement revised MBOE Policies approved at October 10, 2013 meeting.
- Facilitated implementation of changes to MPS Teacher/Administrator Professional Learning & Evaluation Plan.

Security

- Continued the implementation of required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Continued the implementation of Tabletop Emergency Procedures Drill preparation.
- Continued to implement Board approved enhanced safety measures.
- Superintendent and State Trooper Information Session at EASTCONN.

Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Continued final work on MMS greenhouse.
- Resolved initial issues of Southeast entry vestibule.

Maintenance Work Requests						
	GW	SE	VN	MMS	Total	
Solved	5	20	8	13	46	42%
Pending	6	7	14	1	28	25%
Open	6	11	11	8	36	33%
Total	17	38	33	22	110	100%

Programs

Study Island Through September 28, 2013							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
18	29.6	0	0	65	25.1	0	0

*Number of questions attempted on grade level

Energy

- Facilitated school building energy committees.
- Continued to facilitate guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.
- Implemented with finance and maintenance department common comprehensive energy management system.

Communication

- Provided all staff with an update of Administrative Council items.
- Facilitated three Administrative Council meetings.
- Held monthly Facilities Management Meeting.
- Attended Region 19 & Sending Schools Superintendents' and Board Chair meeting regarding Enrollment issues.
- Attended MAC meeting.
- Attended PTA/MMSA meetings at Vinton and MMS.
- Continued to implement digital take home notices at all schools.
- Attended Schools as Clinics meeting at Neag School.
- Attended URSA Superintendent's meeting.
- Facilitated bi-annual District Wellness Advisory Committee meeting.

Professional Development

- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Facilitated professional development training for Grades 2-4 in mathematics and reading/language arts.
- Implemented District Common Core State Standards as outlined in district plan year two.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee Meeting.
- Facilitated Language Arts Sub-Council meeting.
- Facilitated Great Books Training and CCSS for certified staff on October 15th Professional Development Day.

Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued use of Horizon library system software.
- Continued implementation of Pearson Limelight Inform to track student assessment data to inform instruction.
- Continued implementation of MMS Parent Portal.
- Implementation of School Messenger software program for transportation and school delays/closings to parents/guardians.
- Continued to implement Versatran's school bus routing software.
- Implemented a secure file program for certified staff professional learning and evaluation plan.
- Continued conversation with Bloomboard regarding potential use for certified staff professional learning and evaluation plan.

Other

- Attended CAPSS Technology Committee meeting.
- Attended Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) meeting.
- Attended CAPSS Assessment & Accountability Committee meeting.
- Attended Shipman & Goodwin Labor and Employment Fall Seminar.
- Attended URSA Superintendents' Meeting.
- Attended CCM Convention.
- Attended CTCEF Annual Conference.
- Attended Creating Successful Learning Environments workshop.
- Attended ELL Consortium meeting.
- Participated in CSDE Conference Call regarding SBAC.
- Attended Learning Focused Supervision Workshop Series 1 and 2 of 4.
- Attended CECA annual conference.
- Attended School Safety: A Focus on Mental Health workshop.
- Attended CAPSS Small Districts Committee meeting.
- Participated in CSDE ESEA Waiver Conference Call.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing mboesupt@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

Goodwin School

- Fourth graders from Goodwin took trip to the historic Florence Griswold museum to see the Wee Faeire Village exhibit which featured faerie versions of L. Frank Baum's original 24 chapters from the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. This field trip was coordinated by Art Teacher, Karen Anger. In preparation for the trip, fourth grade teachers read aloud the original version of the story and showed the 1939 version of the movie. Students compared and contrasted the events from the book which was published in 1900 and the film. Many students found the original text more entertaining than the film itself as they loved the sophisticated language in the book.
- On October 17, Goodwin held its annual International Pot Luck Dinner. Coordinated by Senora Schwartz and the PTO, the event brought together families from at least 20 different cultures for an evening of great food and conversation. This year's event was particularly relaxing and families lingered at tables and enjoyed one another's company. A variety of games and crafts from different cultures provided the right amount of entertainment to make the evening special.

Southeast School

- Southeast is immensely proud of our third grade student, Athavan, as his lego sorter invention was highlighted on the 5th floor at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford, CT. His invention was on display for the entire month of October. What a wonderful accomplishment of creativity and task commitment in a moment that made Mansfield shine.
- In mid-October, members of the SE staff hosted a family night known as "Savory Samples." It was a wonderful highlight of the various cultures that make up our school community. Many students and parents participated and prepared special ethnic dishes, and our support staff and their families acted as planners and servers. We are so fortunate to have diversity in our community and this event was a chance to recognize the individuals that make us whole in Southeast. Savory Samples has become a beloved tradition at our school.
- Mrs. Rodriguez hosted a Vision Brainstorming meeting where an energized mix of teachers and parents shared their vision for Southeast over the next five to seven years. We spent time brainstorming about future ideas and practices we want continued. It was an inspiring night! Next steps are to review the feedback received and write a draft vision statement incorporating the key ideas shared. We will share this vision with members of the school community for feedback and revision before we adopt the final statement.

Vinton School

- The annual trip to Cedar Ledge Tree Farm took place on October 18th, and was well attended by Vinton families. There were many fun activities for everyone to enjoy, such as tractor rides, mulch mountain sliding, and a hay bale maze.
- The Vinton Kindergarten had a wonderful time at the Hurst Family Farm in Andover on October 22nd. We enjoyed the fall foliage as we took a hay ride. Each of us picked our own pumpkin to bring home. We picked turnips to feed to the cows, and even found a giant turnip in the field! Many parents came to visit with us. We learned how to make maple syrup and drank tasty apple cider.

Vinton School continued

- The Mansfield Fire Department visited Vinton on October 10th for Fire Prevention Day. The firefighters presented fire safety tips to students in the gym, then everyone got to go outside to climb on board the fire trucks! All of the students got a special bag filled with stickers, books, and other information to help remind them of what they learned, and all of the preschoolers got a firefighter's hat to take home.

Mansfield Middle School

- Great teachers lead with both their heads and their hearts. Michael DiCicco, grade 5 teacher was honored at the Board of Education celebration this month. He is an outstanding example of excellence in the classroom and involvement in the school community.
- Mansfield Firefighters joined Grade 5 to explain elements needed to create/maintain fire. Students discussed fire escape routes in their home, school and in the community (such as a movie theater). All 5th graders experienced the Willimantic Fire Department's SmokeHouse Trailer. Students learned about kitchen fire safety practices, what to say when making the 911 call, and how to escape from a smoke-filled room. The trailer was filled with artificial smoke and students crawled to a window to escape the room.
- Sixth graders visited Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts in mid-October. Students began their day by touring the working farm's livestock facilities and learning organic farming techniques. The morning was highlighted by visiting areas that represent various developing parts of the world. After a busy morning, students settled into one of many areas representing countries of the world. They prepared regionally local ingredients, cooked their meal on an open fire, and cleaned up after their meal. Following the meal, students took part in the World Map Activity, which helped them grasp the inequity of population and consumption among the world's regions. Later, students and staff worked together on a service project, such as mucking a stall, moving bales of hay, or cleaning out cooking station fireplaces. Students worked hard and gained an understanding of life under less fortunate circumstances.
- Seventh graders rotated through 4 archaeological activities as part of their study of world history. Students searched through buckets of sand to find fragments of artifacts, and they tried to reassemble parts that seemed to match. They applied their knowledge of prehistoric symbolism as they drew their own cave paintings. In another activity they wrote poems about prehistoric times. They also participated in a museum curation activity in which they restored broken pottery.
- On October 18th, eighth graders visited Boston for the day, seeing first-hand some of the sites (Old North Church, Old South Meeting House, Copp's Hill Burial Ground, and Faneuil Hall). Students were intrigued by the enclosed pews in the church and by seeing Paul Revere's house and the tower that signaled the advance of the British through Middlesex County. They also enjoyed the chance to eat with friends at Quincy Market and do some shopping while they were there.
- During Middle School Education Week (October 21-25), 248 parents of MMS students visited the school to follow their children's schedules for a day. This number represents an increase of 31 parents compared to last year. The annual MMS book fair took place in the library media center during the week, and parents were our best customers. Many parents joined their children for lunch in the cafeteria.

Upcoming Events in November:

Please join us at any/all of these events

GW	SE	VN
Town Meeting 11/7/13 2:30pm	Sturbridge Village FT Gr. 2 11/1/13	PTA Meeting 11/5/13 7:00pm
Positive Discipline for Young Children Workshop 11/7/13 6:00pm	PTO Meeting 11/4/13 7:00pm	Thanksgiving Feast 11/22/13 12:00pm
Thanksgiving Feast 11/22/13 12:00pm	Thanksgiving Feast 11/22/13 12:00pm	PTA Book Fair 11/25-26/13
MMS		
MMS Halloween Party 11/1/13 6:00pm	Election Day Assembly 11/5/13 8:15am	State Capitol FT Gr. 8 11/7/13
Pennies for Warmth Week 11/13-15/13	Mark Twain FT 1/2 Gr. 8 11/13/13 AM	Mark Twain FT 1/2 Gr. 8 11/21/13 AM
Career Day Gr. 7/8 11/27/13		
District		
Board Meeting – Vinton 11/14/13 7:30pm (Security Upgrade Tour at 7:15pm)	Student Early Dismissal 11/25-27/13	Thanksgiving Holiday 11/28-29/13

Link to District Four Schools Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/3607/5184/7573.aspx>

or:

Go to <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/mboe> (Board of Ed. website)

- 1) In the middle at the bottom is a link called "Calendar of Events"
- 2) Click on that link and it will bring you to the calendar.